

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement Sheets for Figures 1-6, 17 and 18 are submitted herewith with an additional legend -- Prior Art --.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above listed claim amendments along with the following remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action set forth above. Claims 1-26 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 7-11, 20, and 26 have been amended and claims 24 and 25 have been withdrawn.

Restriction and Election

The election of Group I claims, 1-23 and 26 in response to the restriction requirement is hereby ratified.

Drawings

Figures 1-6 and 17, 18 were understood to be objected to as not having a legend indicating they show prior art. Replacement Sheets for these Figures are enclosed with a "Prior Art" legend added.

Approval of the Replacement Sheets is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

Claim 11 was objected to with the Examiner suggesting that the phrase "at least one sleeve" be amended to "at least one of the said pair of sleeves." The Examiner's suggestion has been substantially adopted in that claim 11 now recites "at least one of the pair of sleeves." No change in the scope of this claim has been made by this amendment, which merely clarifies the original claim limitation.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claim 5 was rejected as indefinite in referring to NH American Standard Hose Coupling. Claim 5 has been amended to delete the reference to NH American Standard and to refer to "standard hose coupling" threads. This amendment overcomes the rejection and broadens the scope of claim 5.

Claims 20 – 23 were rejected as indefinite as to which set of parts are being cleaned. Claim 20 has been amended to recite that the set of parts being cleaned are those which had been in contact with paint from the paint spray gun. The amendment of claim 20 overcomes the 112 rejection of claims 20, and 22-23. The 112 rejection of claim 21 is believed to be in error and is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Even though claim 7 was not subject to a 112 rejection, claim 7 has been amended to conform to amended claims 8-10, in an effort to advance prosecution of this application to allowance. Claim 7 has been amended to now recite “a first aperture and a second aperture” deleting reference to “a pair of apertures.” No change is made to the scope of this claim by this amendment.

Claim 8 was rejected as having insufficient antecedent basis for “at least one of the pair of apertures.” The 112 rejection of claim 8 has been overcome by deleting the “pair” language cited and replacing it with “first” and “second” apertures corresponding to amended claim 7. Claim 8 now recites a crossbar extending across at least one of the first aperture and the second aperture. No change is made to the scope of this claim by this amendment.

Claim 9 was rejected as having insufficient antecedent basis for “each of the pair of apertures.” The 112 rejection of claim 9 has been overcome by deleting the phrase “pair of apertures” and replacing it with “first aperture and the second aperture” and adding the phrase “the first or the second” in referring to the aperture at the end of the claim. Claim 9 is allowable in that it now recites that each of the first aperture and the second aperture has a partial obstruction of sufficient size to prevent parts being cleaned from passing through either the first or the second aperture. No change is made to the scope of this claim by this amendment.

Claim 10 was rejected as having insufficient antecedent basis for “one of the pair of apertures.” This rejection has been overcome by amending Claim 10 to now recite that each one of the pair of sleeves is extending from and in fluid communication with a respective one of “the first aperture and the second aperture” instead of with a respective one of “the pair of apertures.” No change is made to the scope of this claim by this amendment.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 14-20 and 26 were rejected as anticipated by Hubert, U.S. Patent 3,194,444.

Claim 1 has been amended to now recite that aspect of applicants' invention wherein the second fitting has at least one aperture in fluid communication therewith directing substantially all fluid from the garden hose into the paint cup. This clearly defines over Hubert which has, at most, only a small portion of the water from the water inlet end 18 directed through the short duct 22 into the receptacle 14 of Hubert. In Hubert, the main flow of water passes directly from the water inlet end 18 through the conduit portion 16 to the water outlet portion 20 without going through the ducts 22 and 32 and without entering the interior of the lid 12 or receptacle 14. As such, Hubert teaches away from this aspect of claim 1 as presently amended.

Applicants also point out that Hubert shows neither a cleaning cap nor anything that receives a paint cup, as is positively claimed in claim 1 of the instant application.

Claims 2-7, 9, 10, 13-20 and 26 are each allowable for the reasons stated with respect to claim 1.

Claim 21 is allowable for the reasons stated with respect to claim 1, and further because Hubert does not teach or suggest any fins aligned with the direction of fluid flow in an outlet fluid communication path.

Claim 22 is allowable for the reasons stated with respect to claim 1, and further because Hubert does not teach or suggest any fins that are spaced apart a distance sufficiently small to prevent the passage of any one of a set of parts being cleaned.

Claim 23 is allowable for the reasons stated with respect to claim 1, and further because Hubert does not teach or suggest any fins, much less any fins that are spaced apart a distance less than a smallest outside dimension of a smallest part of a set of parts being cleaned.

As to claim 26, applicants controvert the assertion in the Office Action that Hubert shows an apparatus capable for attachment to an extended suction set. Nevertheless, applicants have amended claim 26 to now recite that aspect of applicants' invention wherein

substantially all of the water flowing through the garden hose will be directed through the cleaning cap and extended suction set. Even if, *arguendo*, Hubert is connected to a double lumen hose at short and elongated ducts 22, 32, at most only a small portion of the water will be directed to the hose lumens. The majority of the water entering inlet end 18 will pass directly through conduit portion 16 and exit through the outlet portion 20, and not pass through the double lumen hose. For this reason, Hubert teaches away from the aspect of applicants' invention as presently claimed in claim 26. The rejection of claim 26 has thus been overcome by the present amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Nevertheless, applicants have amended claims from which claim 12 depends, either directly or indirectly; claim 12 is allowable for the reasons stated with respect to claims 1, 6, 7, 10, and 11.

Applicants understand that since the objection to claim 11 has been overcome, claim 11 is allowable.

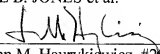
Applicants further understand that since the 112 rejections of claims 8 and 21-23 have been overcome, that these claims are also allowable.

Conclusion

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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